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   —Sherry Martin, school teacher
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   —Wendy Pini, author
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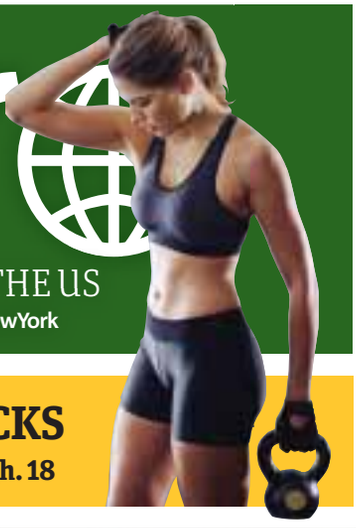

Alejandro Inarritu takes on Trump. 14

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION HACKS

Five secret weapons to make sure you follow through. 18

New Yorkers to soon get 'superfast,' free public Wi-Fi throughout the city. 6

BLUE MONDAY

The Tom Coughlin-Giants marriage came to an end Monday and Big Blue is now in search of a head coach. Saints coach Sean Payton may be at the top of the Giants' wish list. 20

GETTY IMAGES

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TRUMP FIRST TV AD

1 Donald Trump on Monday released his first television commercial in the 2016 race for the White House with a 30-second spot highlighting his stance on Muslims, immigration and terrorism. The ad will air starting on Tuesday in Iowa and New Hampshire, two key early voting states in the run-up to the party's nomination convention in July ahead of the November election. REUTERS

OBAMA GUN CONTROL

2 President Barack Obama is igniting a political firestorm this week by bypassing Congress with new measures to tighten gun rules that are likely to redefine what it means to be a gun dealer and possibly spark legal challenges during his final year in office. Stymied by Congress' inaction on gun control, the president asked his advisers in recent months to examine new ways he could use his executive authority to tighten gun rules unilaterally without needing congressional approval after multiple mass shootings generated outrage nationwide. REUTERS

CIVIL SUIT AGAINST VW

3 The Justice Department on Monday filed a civil suit against Volkswagen for allegedly violating the Clean Air Act by installing illegal devices to impair emission control systems in 600,000 vehicles. The allegations in the lawsuit carry penalties that could cost Volkswagen billions of dollars. REUTERS

7 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

COLD START TO THE WEEK

7 After a surprisingly mild beginning to winter, tourists bundle up as they walk around in Times Square on Monday. A blast of arctic air will have much of the East shivering early in the first full week of January, particularly compared to the record warmth we saw in December.

ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

NYPD CRIME NUMBERS

4 The New York City Police Department kicked off 2016 by releasing last year's crime numbers — boasting that "at this point, 2015 marks the safest year in the modern history in New York City." That was the statement on Monday from Police Commissioner William Bratton. CRISTABELLE TUMOLA

MASSACRE SITE REOPENS

5 The office building in San Bernardino, California, where 14 people were massacred last month by a married couple inspired by Islamist militants, reopened on Monday. Security would be heightened for the facility, which was closed in the aftermath of the Dec. 2 shooting, said Inland Regional Center Executive Director Lavinia Johnson. The property would remain fenced off, and guards at each entrance would continue to monitor security, Johnson said. REUTERS

FATAL BRONX STABBING

6 An early morning stabbing claimed the life of a McDonald's manager. Just before 4:30 a.m., Adam Garcia, 28, kicked an apparently homeless man from the Kingsbridge restaurant for allegedly staying too long in the restroom, police told CBS. The suspect allegedly returned and stabbed Garcia in the neck and chest, ABC said in a related article. JASON NUCKOLLS

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QHP15_208

Campaign launched to make New York $15 minimum wage statewide a reality

"We are going to lead the way for this nation," said the governor.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

New York State is looking to make history this year and show all its workers that they are respected and deserve to live — and afford — the American Dream.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo — along with state and federal officials, and local union leaders — announced Monday the launch of the Mario Cuomo Campaign for Economic Justice.

The campaign — which is a coalition of working people, civil right and religious leaders from around New York State — aims to restore economic justice through raising the minimum wage for over 3 million workers to $15 an hour.

"Minimum wage doesn't even work numerically in this state," Cuomo said. "You can't make it on one minimum wage job you need two, three, four minimum wage jobs to make it and that's not what minimum wage jobs was about."

With this launch, New York will become the first in the nation to push for a statewide minimum wage increase of $15, which would affect about 37 percent of the state's non-self employed workforce.

Such workers that could benefit from the increase include home health and childcare workers, retail clerks and security guards, bank workers and more.

"We are going to lead the way for this nation, we are going to restore honor and dignity and respect to the workers," Cuomo said. "We are going to say to this country you can do very well on the top level but you can also raise up from the bottom. That's what New York is all about."

According to the campaign's official website, a large number of low-wage workers are being paid so little that they qualify to receive one or more types of public assistance.

With the campaign, the state hopes to take thousands above the poverty level and "improve the life opportunities for thousands of children in low-income families across the state."

"Sometimes there are laws that scream out for change and the low minimum wage all across America screams out for change," New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said. "The core of this fight is simple, no one should work full-time and live in poverty."

In order to make the minimum wage increase a reality, Cuomo added there are two parts to the strategy. The first includes winning small battles — such as increasing the minimum wage for fast food and hospitality workers, who on Dec. 31 saw their hourly rate go up to $9.

The campaign will then reach out to other businesses and government officials to come on board.

The second phase will be to go to the New York State Legislature and "win the battle the old-fashioned way." Supporters will go knocking on doors and making phone calls to spread the word and garner more support.

"We have to reach the corner of every mind in the state of New York so they can hear the voices of those who are often not heard," Hector Figueroa, president of 32BJ said. "In this fight, we will lead the country."

Gov. Cuomo BESS ADLER

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NYC to get 'superfast' free public Wi-Fi

LinkNYC will replace payphones with more than 7,500 kiosks with gigabit speed.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
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One New York company is hoping to link the city that never sleeps to a level of connectivity never done before — and all for free.

LinkNYC — which brings together the experts of CityBridge and city agencies — is expected to launch its beta phase in mid-January, giving New Yorkers a taste of the "ultrafast" free public Wi-Fi that is to come.

Over the next few years, LinkNYC will bring Internet access to people all across the five boroughs through a network of more than 7,500 Link kiosks — replacing almost every payphone.

"LinkNYC is the first of its kind at work, and it's really designed for New York City and for the density of New York City and the pedestrian way of life," said Colin O'Donnell, chief technology officer of CityBridge. "This is going to be, when its fully deployed, the fastest and largest free municipal network in the world."

The over-9-feet tall kiosks — which can supports hundreds of devices at a time — will provide users with 1 gigabit per second speed of bandwidth quality through an all-new, purpose-built fiber optic network bringing speeds that are about 100 times faster than average public Wi-Fi.

Along with giving access to free Wi-Fi, the kiosks will also allow users to make free domestic phone calls through a partnership with Vonage. Each will feature a 911 emergency button and two USB ports connected to a power source only. All handicap accessible.

LinkNYC PROVIDED

"We believe this is going to transform Internet usage in a way that we almost cannot imagine yet," said Jenn Hensley, general manager for LinkNYC. "What we've designed we think is a really robust system that will bring maximum connectivity to the most users possible."

When asked about the possibility of any vandalism striking the kiosks, O'Donnell added that they are built of aluminum and can withstand extreme weather conditions. Each also features sensors that can tell if and when it is being banged up, and security cameras.

"If you build a product that provides a great service that people love, people tend not to abuse it," O'Donnell said.

The idea of LinkNYC came after the de Blasio administration issued a call for proposals that would repurpose payphone infrastructures with free Wi-Fi, phone calls and advertising. CityBridge's proposal was chosen and the company was awarded a 12-year franchise.

LinkNYC will be funded through advertising, which will appear on the two side screens on each kiosk.

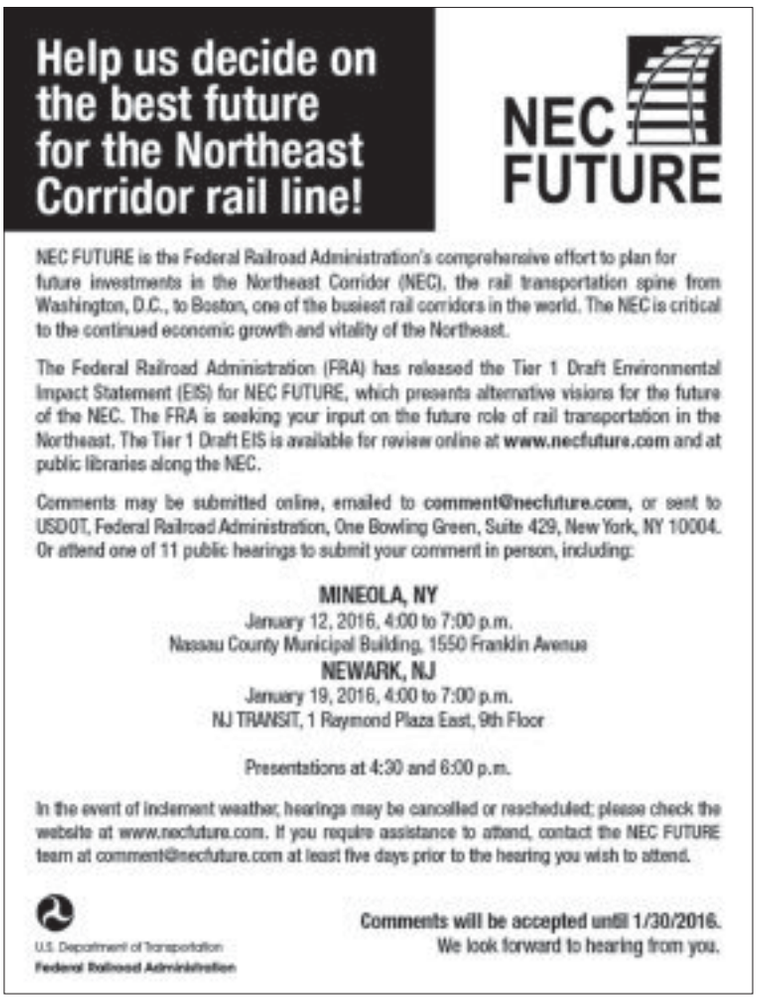
"With LinkNYC we believe we will achieve success like no city has seen before and the world is watching," said Anne Roest, commissioner of the city's Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications.

For the beta phase, which will go on until all kinks and issues are resolved, there will be 10 to 15 kiosks installed in Manhattan up Third Avenue, where there are already two kiosks installed but not yet operational.

During the first few weeks the network will be open for the public to use the Wi-Fi, and in February LinkNYC will deploy the rest of the features — such as the domestic calling and tablet interface.

Once all issues are fixed, and the public's input is taken into account, the full line of kiosks will be launched.

At least 510 kiosks will be installed across the five boroughs by July 2016, including areas such as Third Avenue and 8th Avenue about 14th Street in Manhattan; northern Manhattan; south Bronx; Jamaica, Queens; Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn; and St. George in Staten Island.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The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has released the Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for NEC FUTURE, which presents alternative visions for the future of the NEC. The FRA is seeking your input on the future role of rail transportation in the Northeast. The Tier 1 Draft EIS is available for review online at www.necfuture.com and at public libraries along the NEC.
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BRIEF

Chick-fil-A still closed after DOH inspection

Midtown's Chick-fil-A remains closed after a damning inspection by the Department of Health on Christmas Eve, and there's no definite date for reopening.

"We do have a little more work to complete so we have made the decision to remain closed until we feel confident we are exceeding standards in all areas," according to a statement released by the restaurant released Monday.

The DOH found 59 violations, including five critical issues including fruit flies, not adequately refrigerating food and improperly sanitized wiping cloths.

The closure was voluntary, which "has allowed us the time to make facility and procedural changes," the statement continued.

These changes include not just pest control and cleaning but retraining staff, calling in a consultant to reinspect the restaurant, and making upgrades to the equipment and facilities.

The restaurant at 1000 Avenue of the Americas originally opened Oct. 2 and is NYC's first full-service Chick-fil-A location. The massive restaurant has two kitchens, one of them in the basement.

EVA KIS

Best of theater comes to NYC

See the plays that made an impact worldwide at Under the Radar.

EVA KIS
@thisiskis
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Ever roll your eyes at a story about New York that obviously wasn't written by a New Yorker? There's a romanticism to it that anyone who actually lives here knows is purely fiction.

When you ask the locals, that's when real stories emerge.

That's the goal of Under the Radar, the Public Theater's 12-day festival of more than 70 shows representing the best of international theater. "These works are very intimate, so often they're telling the stories that are more close to the ground than the larger pieces that come over," says festival co-director Mark Russell.

"Employee of the Year" MARIA BARANOVA

Accessibility is vital to the festival, with most tickets going for $25 and new ways to engage with the works. Besides post-show talkbacks, the Public's mezzanine level is turning into a pop-up library of books that influenced the artists' works. Every night of the fest, grab a drink with the artists and discuss their work at The Library, and swing by Joe's Pub for post-show concerts. Entry to these events is free.

Here are four shows sure to inspire some late-night discussions.

"Germinal"

This play appropriately kicks off the festival with "a rather innocent investigation of creating life," Russell says. A cast of four build a new world — its physics, philosophy, language and social rules — and in the process question everything we take for granted. (Performed in French with English supertitles.)

"Now I'm Fine"

Ahamefule J. Oluo combines his talents as a composer (Macklemore, Das Racist), standup comedian and storyteller ("This American Life") to recount one of the worst years of his life — as a pop opera featuring live music by a 17-piece band.

"The Art of Luv (Part I): Elliot"

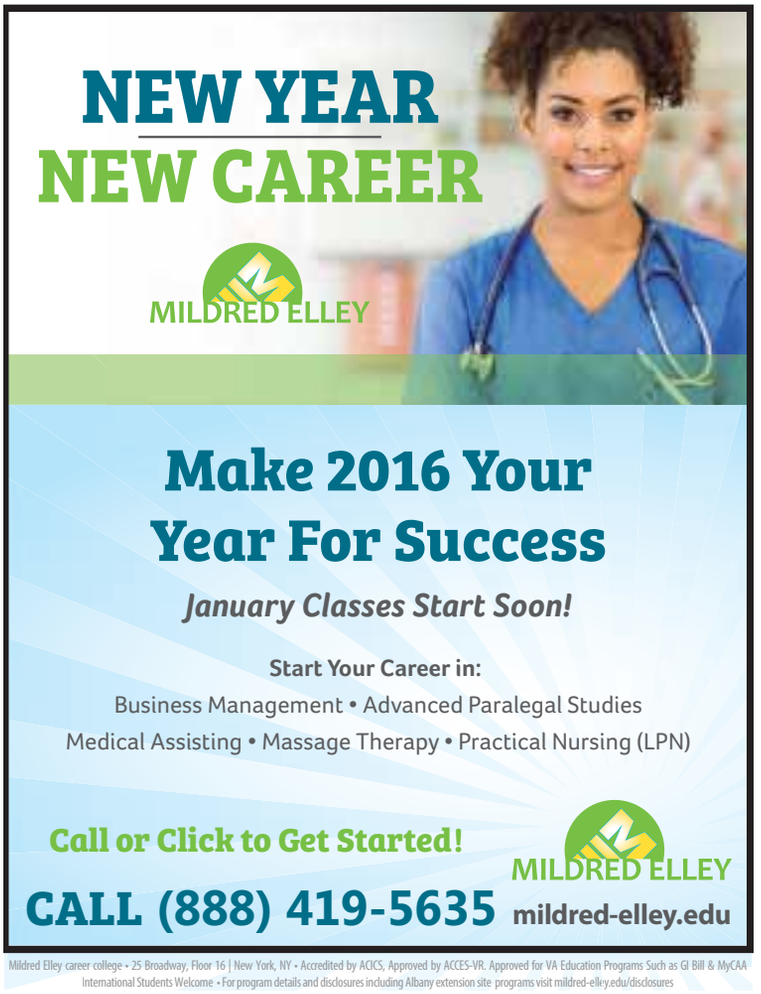
For this play, "we are transforming one of our larger theaters into a 75-seat theater, and people will be sitting on cushions and other chairs," Russell says. "Coming to that performance needs you to shed your regular ideas of what a theater performance is, and this helps with that." The story, told by the Royal Osiris Karaoke Ensemble, explores modern love and how men misunderstand it.

Under the Radar

Jan. 6-17
The Public Theater, 425 Lafayette St.
$20-35,
Undertheradarfestival.com

"Employee of the Year"

This is the festival's own "Boyhood." Brooklyn's 600 Highwaymen have been working on the production for almost five years with a group of child actresses as young as 8 years old to tell the life story of a woman from age 7 to 85. "It's really moving seeing the passage of time and seeing the child in the characters existing still," says Russell.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Cosby lawyers ask to delay Camille Cosby's deposition

Cosby lawyers argued the intimate nature of the questions expected during the deposition justified a delay, noting that their ability to object to such evidence at trial would not spare their client embarrassment.

Lawyers for Bill Cosby and his wife, Camille, asked a federal judge on Monday to delay a deposition by her scheduled for Wednesday in a defamation lawsuit brought by seven women who allege the entertainer sexually abused them.

The lawyers said in papers filed in U.S. district court in Massachusetts that the sworn interview should be delayed pending an appeal on whether Camille Cosby could be required to testify at all.

On Dec. 31, a federal magistrate judge in Massachusetts rejected arguments by Camille Cosby, the comedian's wife of almost 52 years and his business manager, that the deposition would represent an "undue burden."

"The magistrate has suggested that the plaintiffs may ask Mrs. Cosby about the most intimate details of her marital life, including her husband's sexual 'proclivities,'" Camille Cosby's attorneys wrote.

The Dec. 31 ruling came a day after Cosby, 78, was charged with sexually assaulting a woman who prosecutors say the comedian plied with drugs and alcohol in 2004, the only criminal case filed against the entertainer.

Camille and Bill Cosby GETTY IMAGES

More than 50 women have come forward to accuse Cosby, best known for his role in the 1980s television hit "The Cosby Show" of sexually assaulting them after plying them with drugs or alcohol. Cosby has repeatedly denied wrongdoing and many of the allegations involve decades-old incidents.

Cosby is free on $1 million bail, and his lawyer has said the entertainer is not guilty and will not consider a plea bargain.

The Massachusetts civil lawsuit against Cosby was filed in December 2014 by Tamara Green, later joined by six other women, who contend that Cosby sexually assaulted or abused and then defamed them by calling each a liar, court documents said. REUTERS

Microsoft's latest operating system on 200M devices

Microsoft's latest operating system, Windows 10, is running on 200 million devices in what the company said was the fastest adoption rate of any of its operating systems.

Windows 10, which the company released as a free download in July, powers both personal computers and devices such as phones. It replaced Windows 8, the heavily criticized system dating from 2012.

Just over two months ago, Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella said 110 million devices were running Windows 10, meaning the system is now on almost double the number of phones and PCs compared to before the holiday season.

"I would characterize this as white hot adoption out of the gate," said Daniel Ives, an analyst at FBR Capital Markets, who has an "outperform" rating on the stock.

Much of the growth comes from retail consumers, with devices such as Microsoft's Xbox gaming console helping drive adoption of Windows 10, the company said. Xbox's busiest day to date was Dec. 28, it added.

But the ultimate success of Windows 10 will be judged by the take-up rate among businesses. About three-quarters of Microsoft's enterprise customers are testing Windows 10.

Microsoft also needs more mobile developers to build apps for Windows 10 to help catch up with players like Apple and its popular iPhone and iPad devices. It reported some progress in that area Monday, citing more visits to its Windows Store for apps such as video service Netflix and music service Pandora. REUTERS

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1. Viagra Prescribing Information, Revised January 2010 2. Cialis Prescribing Information, Revised October 2011 3. Levitra Prescribing Information, Revised November 2011 4. European Society for Sexual Medicine (ESSM) Website, downloaded 11/14/12. 5. AMS 700® with MS Pump® Inflatable Penile Prosthesis Instructions for Use (IFU)

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Britain denounces an Islamic State video showing 'spies' shot

The video, which could not be independently verified, also shows the killing of five men accused of spying for Britain.

A masked man points a weapon as he speaks in this video still from a handout video obtained on Jan. 4, 2016, from a social media website which has not been independently verified. SOCIAL MEDIA VIDEO

An Islamic State video showing a young boy in military fatigues and an older masked militant who both spoke with British accents is "desperate" propaganda from an organization that is losing ground, Prime Minister David Cameron said on Monday.

The masked man threatens Cameron and vows that Islamic State will one day occupy Britain before shooting one of the alleged spies in the head.

The footage revived memories of "Jihadi John," a British Islamic State member who appeared in several videos in which hostages were killed before his own death was reported in an airstrike late last year.

"It's desperate stuff from an organization that really does do the most utterly despicable and ghastly acts, and people can see that

"This is a message to David Cameron, O slave of the White House, O mule of the Jews."

The man in the video

again today," Cameron told reporters.

"This is an organization that's losing territory, it's losing ground … Britain will never be cowed by this sort of terrorism, our values are so much stronger than theirs. It may take a very long time but they will be defeated."

In the latest fighting in Iraq, Islamic State has largely been pushed out of the city of Ramadi, its biggest prize of last year.

The United States said in November it had killed Mohammed Emwazi, who as "Jihadi John" had become a symbol of Islamic State. The voice and appearance of the masked militant shown in the new video was different from Emwazi, but he spoke in a clear English accent, waving a gun at the camera while criticizing Cameron.

"How strange it is that a leader of a small island threatens us with a handful of planes. One would have thought you'd have learned the lessons of your pathetic master in Washington and his failed campaign against the Islamic State," the man said. REUTERS

BRIEFS

Georgia governor withdraws order to refuse Syrian refugees

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal on Monday rescinded his executive order seeking to stop the resettlement of Syrian refugees in his state after the state's attorney general ruled he did not have the authority to deny them entry or federally funded benefits.

Deal, a Republican, had been among more than two dozen U.S. governors who sought to block refugees from the war-torn country from their states after the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris, for which the Islamic State militant group claimed credit. Many Republican presidential candidates have also expressed opposition to allowing Syrian refugees into the United States.

Deal cited an opinion last week by Georgia Attorney General Samuel Olens, also a Republican, in his new order withdrawing his instructions to state agencies to halt involvement in accepting Syrian refugees for resettlement.

Olens had ruled that Georgia did not have the authority to exclude refugees from particular countries, despite concerns about the federal government's security screening procedures. REUTERS

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US takes 121 illegal immigrants into custody for deportation

U.S. authorities took 121 people into custody over the weekend, primarily in Texas, Georgia and North Carolina, as immigration authorities moved to deport families who entered the United States illegally after May 2014, officials said on Monday.

The so-called removals of adults and their children followed an increased rate of deportation of single adults to Central America since the summer of 2014, the Department of Homeland Security said.

"This should come as no surprise. I have said publicly for months that individuals who constitute enforcement priorities, including families and unaccompanied children, will be removed," Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said in a statement.

American officials are keen to avoid a repeat of the surge in unaccompanied children entering the United States in 2014, when tens of thousands of minors traveling without adults flooded across the southern U.S. border illegally.

U.S. authorities have cracked down on convicted criminals living illegally in the United States over the past year, a focus that prompted Republican members of Congress to complain that the threat of deportation has eased for other documented immigrants.

> ***"What I can tell you more broadly, is that the enforcement priorities laid out by the administration are concentrating our efforts to deport felons, not families."***
> White House spokesman Josh Earnest

The White House would not comment on Monday on specifics of the weekend apprehensions by immigration authorities.

The apprehensions targeted adults and children who crossed the southern border illegally after May 1, 2014, DHS said. They had been ordered removed by an immigration court and exhausted legal remedies and claims for asylum, it said.

Most families will be taken to family residential centers before being put on flights to their home countries.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) condemned the actions and said the deportation policies were rigged against families. **REUTERS**

Worst start to year for Dow since 2008

Also the worst starts for the S&P 500 and Nasdaq since 2001.

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange On Monday in New York City. **GETTY IMAGES**

U.S. stocks began 2016 sharply lower on Monday, with the Dow marking its worst start to a year since 2008, after weak Chinese economic data fanned fears of a global slowdown.

Indexes partly recovered late in the session, following a turnaround in oil prices that caused energy shares to cut losses. At its low for the day, the Dow was down 467 points and was headed for its worst first-day percentage drop since 1932.

Surveys showed factory activity in the world's second-largest economy shrank sharply in December, sparking a 7-percent slide in Chinese shares that triggered a trading halt. Adding to investors' worries, China's central bank fixed the yuan at a 4½ year low, further weakening it against the dollar.

U.S. data sparked further concern as factory activity weakened unexpectedly in December, according to the Institute for Supply Management.

"There was the turmoil overnight overseas that kind of set the tone … [but] all of the negatives out there have been out there for a while," said Michael O'Rourke, chief market strategist at JonesTrading.

"The fact that we closed down on the year, the Fed tightened, it crystallized in investors' minds that we're not in the environment we were in throughout most of the recovery."

The selloff was widespread but not as deep as the slide caused by worries of a China-led global slowdown in August, when the Dow tumbled more than 1,000 points at one point.

Nasdaq led the day's decline and Amazon, down 5.8 percent at $636.99, weighed the most on the S&P 500 and Nasdaq, while the Nasdaq Biotech Index dropped 3.2 percent.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 276.09 points, or 1.58 percent, to 17,148.94, the S&P 500 lost 31.28 points, or 1.53 percent, to 2,012.66 and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 104.32 points, or 2.08 percent, to 4,903.09.

Both the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq had their worst starts to a year since 2001.

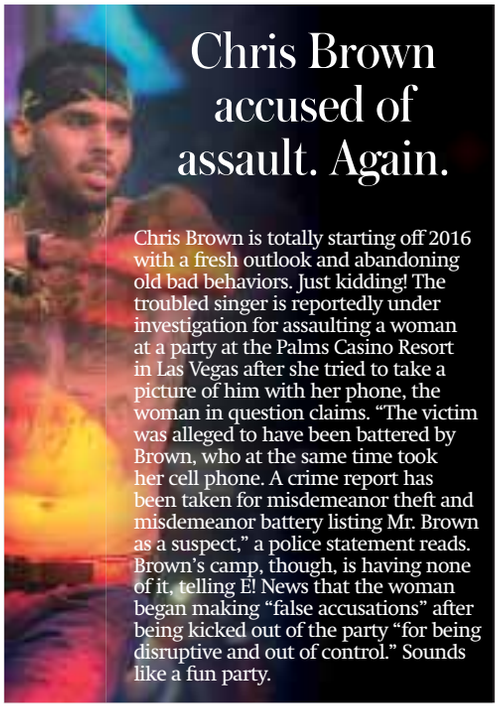
All 10 S&P sectors ended lower, but the energy index. SPNY was down the least, with a loss of just 0.2 percent.

Crude oil ended a volatile session down slightly following concern about Middle East tensions, but Brent turned higher late. **REUTERS**

Leonardo DiCaprio is back on the market

It looks like Leonardo DiCaprio will be walking the Awards Season red carpets solo this year, as he has reportedly called it quits with Sports Illustrated model Kelly Rohrbach after about six months of dating. And while you might be eager to dub this the first big breakup of 2016, not so fast, according to Us Weekly. "They've been broken up for over a month," a source says. "It was mutual. They both have intense work schedules and a lot going on in their lives right now. They both needed to take a break because of that. They are still friends and talking, but it's over." If it's over, I'm not exactly clear on exactly what they have to talk about, but sure, whatever. But wait, you're saying, weren't they supposedly engaged? That's what I thought, too, but I guess not? It looks like Hollywood's reigning perpetual bachelor is back to his old ways.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES



Chris Brown accused of assault. Again.

Chris Brown is totally starting off 2016 with a fresh outlook and abandoning old bad behaviors. Just kidding! The troubled singer is reportedly under investigation for assaulting a woman at a party at the Palms Casino Resort in Las Vegas after she tried to take a picture of him with her phone, the woman in question claims. "The victim was alleged to have been battered by Brown, who at the same time took her cell phone. A crime report has been taken for misdemeanor theft and misdemeanor battery listing Mr. Brown as a suspect," a police statement reads. Brown's camp, though, is having none of it, telling E! News that the woman began making "false accusations" after being kicked out of the party "for being disruptive and out of control." Sounds like a fun party.

Gwen and Blake celebrate first pregnancy rumor

Gwen Stefani and Blake Shelton have hit another big milestone in their tabloid-friendly romance: the unsubstantiated pregnancy rumor. And which publication is the generous provider of this big news? None other than Star magazine. The tabloid reports that Stefani and Shelton spent the Christmas holidays with a bit of extra cheer due to a bun supposedly in the No Doubt singer's oven just a few months into their relationship. But just because they could be ready to start a family, that doesn't mean they'll be tying the knot anytime soon — at least if Shelton has a say in it. "Gwen is hoping for a wedding, but Blake's not ready," a source warns. One milestone at a time, right?

the word

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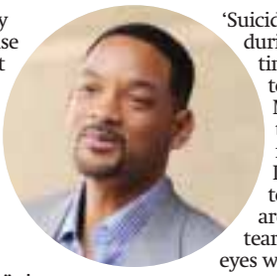
Will Smith reads his 'Independence Day' character's obit



It's probably not a surprise at this point that Will Smith isn't in the "Independence Day" sequel, "Independence Day: Resurgance," since Smith and director Roland Emmerich couldn't make an appearance by his character from the 1996 blockbuster work out. But the way they dispatched the heroic Stephen Hiller is just plain mean. "I was working on 'Suicide Squad' during that time," Smith tells Yahoo Movies. "The trailer looks really cool. I'm going to be sitting around with tears in my eyes when that one comes out. [But] it was terrible when I found out my character died." What he's referring to is a simple, tossed-off obituary for Hiller on one of the new film's promotional sites. That's cold, marketing department. Really cold.

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Kettle-bells are the racquetball-courts of this decade.

@mindykaling
Being obsessed with crime shows is the new green drink for girls

@ConanOBrien
My plan to defeat ISIS? Get them to eat at Chipotle.

@AZEALIABANKS
There was a gnat in my room last night who just couldn't wait to for me to fall asleep so he could fly into my mouth. This morning he's gone

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Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu is not a madman

The Oscar-winning director braved the elements for the survival tale "The Revenant."

RICHARD PECKETT
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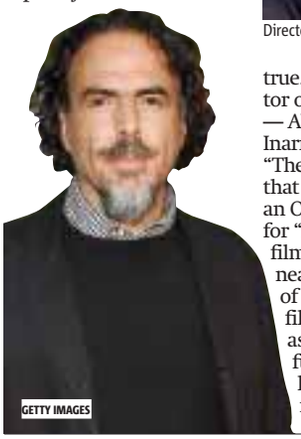
Director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu is seen on "The Revenant" set with star Leonardo DiCaprio. TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

Recently word spread, thanks to the Drudge Report, that the new Leonardo DiCaprio movie featured the actor being raped by a bear. It wasn't true. But at least the director of the film in question — Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, whose latest is "The Revenant" — found that funny. Inarritu won an Oscar earlier this year for "Birdman," which he filmed shortly before the nearly year-long shoot of "The Revenant." The film finds DiCaprio as an 18th-century fur trapper who gets left for dead after a near-fatal bear attack then struggles through the wilderness back to civilization.



GETTY IMAGES

There's been a lot of gossip surrounding Leonardo DiCaprio and the bear. What's your opinion of all the hype and rumors?

[Laughs] All that gossip is hilarious and part of the culture we are living in. It makes me laugh, but it has a very pathetic side. It's sad that the world feeds off all this nonsense when actually there is much more important news to be covered.

A number of cast members left the production citing that it was a "living hell." You were described as a "madman." Would you agree?

No, I'm not a madman.

How would you describe yourself?

I'm a little cuckoo but not mad. You have to be a little crazy to be a filmmaker — you need craziness.

The film shows the conflict between the Pawnee and fur trappers. Are you keen to reignite the debate about the U.S.'s treatment of Native Americans?

I think more than anything it's about how the interaction between these blind and ignorant men, who are driven only by profit, kill every tree and animal to extract all the natural resources. Through their actions, they give so much pain to the communities at that time. It's a reflection of what we are still doing. I think it's good to understand that that era is the original time in history when this system of profit was implanted: The idea that entitlement comes through profit, and when money is god, we are in a system that is killing everything.

Talking Trump

Some of the Republican rhetoric in the U.S., in particular from presidential hopeful Donald Trump who proposes to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, is causing uproar and division at the moment.

When you plant these seeds of hate and express those intoxicated words, you create a lot of pain in the people who are consuming them and cause the message to spread. That's how WWII started. It's how radical leaders have indoctrinated the masses, and that is the most dangerous and irresponsible thing.

Do you think that the media, in this instance, should be moderated?

The people who are trying to create some kind of serenity are shut down, and the other kind has their open mic every 24 hours — that is the scary part. It is becoming like a circus, and that circus has become like an episode on TV.

Meet the real hero of 'Concussion'

The man Will Smith plays in the new football drama may be even more charismatic than Will Smith.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

Bennet Omalu GETTY IMAGES

Will Smith isn't the one who steals the show at the press conference for "Concussion," the actor's new football-themed drama. It's Bennet Omalu, the man he played. Omalu is a pathologist from Nigeria who, while stationed in a Pittsburgh hospital, unearthed findings that many former NFL players were succumbing to CTE, a dangerous, sometimes fatal brain disease. The NFL was predictably reluctant to accept his research and battled him hard, almost destroying his career, and only came around in 2009.

Despite the hardships in the past, Omalu is a force of life, causing Smith to sit back in awe as he speaks. Here is some of what Omalu said:

On seeing "Concussion" for the first time:
Omalu watched it with his wife, Prema (played in the film by Gugu Mbatha-Raw), and was initially starstruck. "But as the movie went on," Omalu recalls, "I don't know what happened to me, but it was like a transformation. I totally lost myself in the moment. I was now embedded in what I was seeing on the screen. That's a testament to the job he did. It made me yet again proud to be part of the American family. An immigrant hungers to be part of the story called America. This is what is to be American."

On meeting Will Smith:
Omalu says he was terrified to meet the star, even as the director, Peter Landesman, was assuring him he was just a normal human being. Smith watched him perform an autopsy, then they all went for lunch. Smith asked to ride in the car with Omalu, to Omalu's shock. He found someone who was very humble. "He was asking me very personal questions," Omalu remembers. "And I was answering them with perfect sincerity. He captured me in my natural state. When we got to the restaurant we stayed in the car for 30 minutes. He stole my heart away from me, to be honest."

Bennet Omalu, center, poses with Will Smith, who plays him in "Concussion," and the film's director, Peter Landesman. COLUMBIA PICTURES

What he learned from Smith:
"He told me two things," Omalu recalls. "He said, 'Whatever happens, don't stop what you're doing. This is who you are. This is what you're best at." The other thing Smith told him was to remain humble. "What could be more American than that? This is a story of one American family. We are one love. We are one hope. We are one spirit. We are bound together by the bond of peace. This is what this movie is about."

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Stuffed Honeynut Squash with Feta, Spinach and Walnuts

We can't get enough of the honeynut squash's tiny curves. Think of them as a butternut squash on flavor-steroids: they pack about 10 times the sweetness and squash flavor as their bigger cousins, but fit in the palm of your hand so they're easy to work with. Stuffed with quinoa, feta, spinach and walnuts, they make a hearty and satisfying vegetarian dinner. Cook, relax and enjoy!

Cooking time: 35 minutes
Attributes: vegetarian (gluten-free)
Nutritional Info (per portion): 620 kcal; 38.5g fat; 20.4g protein; 43.2g carbs
Allergens: tree nuts, milk

What we send
- 2 honeynut squash (10–14 oz each)
- 3 oz quinoa
- 2 oz walnuts
- ½ bunch flat leaf spinach (5 oz)
- 2 oz feta
- 1 Tbsp red wine vinegar (2 packets)

What you need
- olive oil
- coarse salt
- freshly ground black pepper

Equipment
- rimmed baking sheet
- medium saucepan

Directions:

1 Roast squash
Preheat oven to 450°F. Halve squash lengthwise, scoop out seeds and place on a rimmed baking sheet. Drizzle squash with 1 tablespoon oil and season with salt and pepper. Roast cut-side down until beginning to soften, 15 minutes.

2 Cook quinoa
Meanwhile, rinse quinoa in a fine-mesh sieve. Place in a medium pot with a pinch salt and ⅔ cup water. Bring to a simmer, cover and cook until water is absorbed and quinoa is tender, about 15 minutes. Let stand, covered, 5 minutes.

3 Toast walnuts
Add walnuts to baking sheet with squash and continue to roast until squash is tender when pierced with a sharp knife and walnuts are toasted, 5–10 minutes more. Turn squash cut-side up and roughly chop walnuts.

4 Prep spinach
Trim tough ends from spinach; wash well and spin dry. Roughly chop spinach and place in a large bowl.

5 Make filling
Crumble feta and add to spinach along with quinoa and chopped walnuts. Add 1 tablespoon vinegar, 2 tablespoons oil and season with salt and pepper.

6 Finish squash
Carefully mound filling into and on top of squash and return to oven (it's OK if some spills onto baking sheet). Bake until top is lightly golden, about 5 minutes. Enjoy!

Breaking up with Brandy

Dorian Missick plays at divorce drama in the new comedy "Zoe Ever After."

NED EHRBAR
@Nedrick
ned.ehrbar@metro.us

Brandy and Dorian Missick try to make it work in "Zoe Ever After." BET

Actor Dorian Missick spent several years policing the streets of L.A. on "Southland," but even that might not have prepared him for his latest role as a dueling ex-husband with Brandy on "Zoe Ever After," about a mother and her famous boxer ex-husband who have different views on how their divorce should go.

What did you think of this show when they first pitched it to you?

When I first thought about it, the thing that attracted me to it was that Brandy was doing it. I wanted to work with her. I've been a fan of hers for a while, so that was the first reason why I even read it. And I'd been actively looking for a comedy project after "Southland." I mean, "Southland" was so heavy, the stuff we handled on that show. I mean, myself and Regina [King] were kind of the comic relief at times on that show to kind of make up for the heaviness, but I wanted to take it further and do a full-on comedy.

Missick GETTY IMAGES

It's a comedy, but it does have its moments of seriousness.

Yeah, yeah. Which is another reason why I wanted to do it, because it's not just a "three lines, tell a joke, three lines, tell a joke" kind of format that you get a lot of times with sitcoms. I like the fact that you kind of explore all aspects. You can go through every emotion through an episode of "Zoe," and that part was exciting. It's kind of a throwback to the sitcoms that I grew up watching, like "Cheers" or "The Cosby Show," that kind of thing where they were comedic, but they also dealt with the issues of the day and dealt with them in a way that they weren't beating you over the head.

What do you think of the idea of starting this couple off so contentious?

[Laughs] I was concerned in the beginning, like, "Where are we going to go with this?" But anybody who's ever been through a big, heavy breakup, it's very rarely clean. I mean, this is a couple that's been together for 20 years, and they have a child together. You know it's not just going to be a clean break. It's about watching a couple work through the pain.

Which can be a challenge to make funny.

Yeah, which is why I wanted to do it. Anytime you read something and you think, "How the hell are they going to do this?" that's usually the one you want to jump on board. Because if you can predict it before you even read it, to me as an actor, it's not really worth doing.

Leading lady

What was it like working with Brandy?

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ISTOCK

Tools to keep your New Year's resolutions on track

Make this the year you actually make it happen.

EMILY LAURENCE
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emily.laurence@metro.us

ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

If you spent Jan. 1 hungover while simultaneously vowing to be healthier in 2016, we hear you. New Year's resolutions often get a bad rap, but the thing is, you can actually see your goals through — if you come up with a plan. Here, we break down five popular resolutions and the secret weapons that will help turn them into a reality.

Resolution: Run a marathon
Tool: Marathon & Half Marathon Trainer Pro
Price: 99 cents

Making a resolution to run a marathon is ambitious for anyone, whether it's your first or your 10th. The key is sticking to a training schedule. There are a few different training apps on the market, but Marathon & Half Marathon Trainer Pro is the most extensive — and it only costs 99 cents. First, use the app to set your goal: anything from a 3K to a full marathon. Then, it creates a calendar, coaching you on how far to run each training day. It can also tell you what your pace should be to meet a specific finishing-time goal and includes ways to recharge so you don't overdo it. This app really does plan it all out. The rest is up to you.

Resolution: Cook more healthful meals
Tool: Services like Blue Apron food delivery subscription
Price: $9.99 per person per meal

It can be easy to get into the habit of Seamless-ing dinner every night or heating up a ready-made meal — often full of preservatives. Blue Apron makes the resolution of cooking more healthfully easy by having the fresh ingredients and step-by-step recipes delivered straight to your door. If you have specific food requests, such as vegetarian or gluten-free, you can get have your meal plans tweaked.

Resolution: Be more active as a family
Tool: "The Fitness Fun Busy Book" by Trish Kuffner, Amazon.com
Price: $11

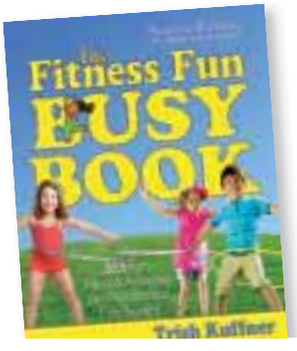
Getting the whole family moving will not only keep everyone healthier, but also is a way to get some good quality time together. But it can be tricky to keep coming up with ideas, which is where this book comes in. It includes 365 fun physical activities, both indoor and outdoor, taking into account the seasons.

Resolution: Lose weight
Tool: Calorie Counter – MyFitnessPal app
Price: Free

There are hundreds of health apps, but what makes this one a cut above the rest is that it tracks both fitness and nutrition, the two key components to losing weight. It has a database of more than 5 million foods so you can look up the nutrition value of essentially anything you want to eat. It also includes a food journal and recipe importer. On the fitness front, this app tracks your exercise habits and also can connect with over 50 other popular fitness apps, including MapMyFitness, FitBit and more. Best of all, the personalized reports keep you updated on how you're doing and how close you are to reaching your weight-loss goal.

Resolution: Get more sleep
Tool: Peaceful Progression Wakeup Clock, Hammacher.com
Price: $79.95

If you want to have a well-rested year, the first step is to cut back on any factors that could be interfering, such as caffeine or alcohol intake. Another sleep killer: snoozing next to your smartphone. Not only are the alerts disruptive, but the screen emits the same wavelengths as daylight. The Peaceful Progressive Wakeup Clock uses sound, scent and sight to give you the best sleep ever. If you need a smoothing soundtrack, it has several to choose from. It also emits different aromatherapy scents: At night, lavender will calm your senses, while in the morning, citrus will start to energize you. The clock's light echoes a rising sun. It really pulls out all the stops.



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5 Health trends we should leave in 2015

From waist training to the belly button challenge, we say good riddance to these unhealthy fads.

SHOWMEBONESANA/INSTAGRAM

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A lot of awesome health trends took over in 2015: rowing classes, morning workout raves, zombie runs…But there were just as many fitness fails as successes. Here, we round up five trends that totally took over last year, but need to be gone. For good.

1 Searching for the next #ThighGap

There's fitspiration and then there's faux fitspiration, something that passes itself off as healthy but really isn't. In 2015, the thigh gap craze finally died down, but only because it was the gateway to a slew of other unhealthy measurements of what a "perfect body" is. Thighbrows (a set of folds located at the top of the thighs, separating them from the butt), bikini bridge (the space between your bikini bottoms and hip bones when you lie down) and hot dog legs (photos of slim, tan legs) all took over Instagram this year. And they are all inaccurate, distorted barometers of what is healthy and what isn't.

2 Waist training

Kim Kardashian, Jessica Alba and Lily James have all endorsed waist training — wearing a corset to get a slimmer figure — but the centuries-old tradition is not an ideal way to get your strongest, best body. Waist training doesn't actually help anyone lose weight or shed fat; it only hides it. And some doctors have said that compressing the lower intestine can cause pulmonary problems and gastrointestinal issues. Not cute.

Kim Kardashian endorses waist training. KIM KARDASHIAN/INSTAGRAM

3 21 Day Fix

According to Google, the 21 Day Fix was the third most popular health search of 2015. The package, created by fitness trainer Autumn Calabrese, costs $73 and promises to transform your body in 21 days using premeasured food and 30-minute workout videos. Having a plan is great, but a "fix" isn't going to lead to long-term success. Feeling confident in the long run requires forming healthy habits you can keep for a lifetime, not 21 days.

4 A bigger booty at any cost

Doing some squats to make your butt perkier and more toned is all well and good, but you can't will yourself to have a backside as bountiful as Iggy Azalea's or Jennifer Lopez's. The American Society of Plastic Surgeons reports that butt augmentation is one of the fastest growing surgical procedures, with many people getting illegal injections to cut costs from the $4,500 price tag. But the risks outweigh the rewards. There is little data on the injuries, but CBS reports amputations and deaths directly resulting in butt augmentation surgeries are on the rise.

J. Lo and Iggy Azalea spread the big booty love./GETTY IMAGES

5 #BellyButtonChallege

Social media can be a great tool for staying motivated to workout. Getting likes for working out can pump you up. But when something like the belly button challenge (a photo of reaching around your back and touching your belly button) takes over, it promotes an unhealthy idea of body image that can destroy one's confidence. Thinspiration should never be a trend.

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Coughlin era comes to a close

The Giants are now searching for a new head coach for the first time in 12 years.

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Tom Coughlin's reign as head coach of the New York Giants came to an end Monday after 12 years and two improbable Super Bowl titles.

As for the semantics on whether or not Coughlin was "fired" by Giants brass, ESPN's Adam Schefter tweeted: "Wording on a monumental departure: Coughlin decided to step down before Giants asked if he wanted to stay, per source. Coughlin will remain active, open to listening to teams."

Coughlin released a statement at 2:30 p.m. on Monday.

"I met with John Mara and Steve Tisch this afternoon, and I informed them that it is in the best interest of the organization that I step down as head coach. I strongly believe the time is right for me and my family, and as I said, the Giants organization.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as head coach of the New York Football Giants. This is a not a sad occasion for me. I have spent 15 years with this organization as an assistant and head coach and was fortunate to be part of three Super Bowl winning teams. A Lombardi Trophy every five years is an achievement in which we all take great pride.

"Obviously, the past three years have not been what any of us expect, and as head coach, I accept the responsibility for those seasons.

"I think it has been evident these last 12 years here how much pride I take in representing this franchise. I am gratified and proud that we were able to deliver two more Lombardi trophies to the display case in our lobby during that time. That is a tribute to our players and staff, and it was truly fulfilling to be the leader of those teams.

"I appreciate the support of John and his family and Steve and his family, and of [general manager] Jerry Reese and his staff. I think our organization is a great representation of what I mean when I talk about 'team.'

"Finally, I would be remiss if I did not thank my wife Judy and our four children and their spouses and our 11 (soon to be 12) grandchildren. None of this would have been possible without their unconditional love and support."

Coughlin and Giants ownership met for an hour Monday. The move, which was widely expected, opens up one of the more coveted jobs in the NFL.

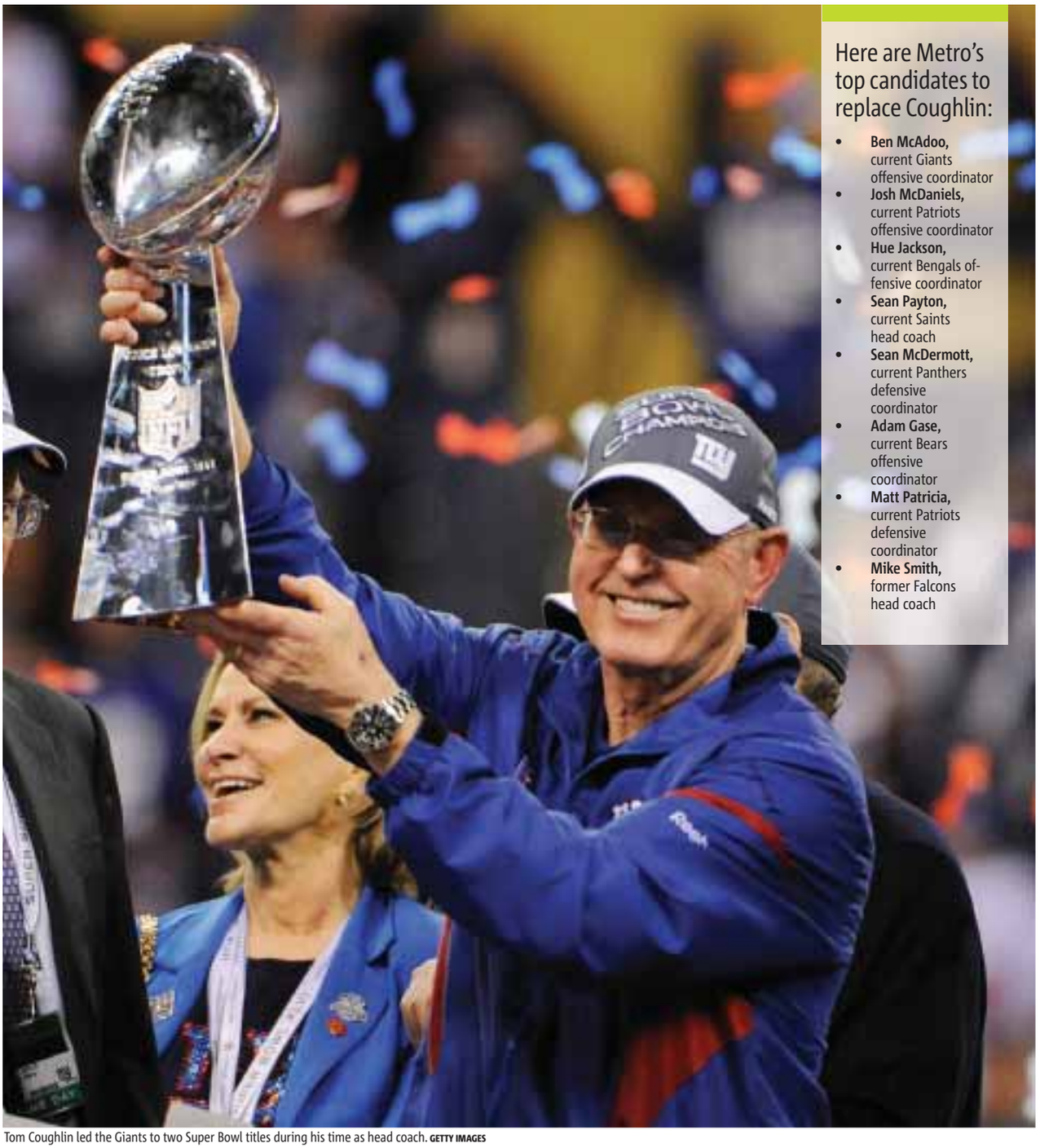
As for Coughlin, a Hall of Fame call could be next.

A coach with two Super Bowl victories and a résumé stretching six decades (starting with Syracuse in 1969) will certainly give voters a lot to think about when the 69-year-old is up for induction in a few years.

With world championships, led by defense and Eli Manning in 2007 and 2011, Coughlin has given Giants fans some of the highest of highs (like David Tyree, and thwarting the mighty Patriots).

But he's also overseen several low points with the team — missing the playoffs during each of his last four seasons.

New York had a 102-89 record with Coughlin at the helm, and a 12-7 record in the five postseasons.



Tom Coughlin led the Giants to two Super Bowl titles during his time as head coach. GETTY IMAGES

Here are Metro's top candidates to replace Coughlin:

- **Ben McAdoo,** current Giants offensive coordinator
- **Josh McDaniels,** current Patriots offensive coordinator
- **Hue Jackson,** current Bengals offensive coordinator
- **Sean Payton,** current Saints head coach
- **Sean McDermott,** current Panthers defensive coordinator
- **Adam Gase,** current Bears offensive coordinator
- **Matt Patricia,** current Patriots defensive coordinator
- **Mike Smith,** former Falcons head coach

Payton a good fit for Big Blue?

NFL Network's Ian Rapoport tweeted Monday, "As Saints head coach Sean Payton mulls his future, let me state the obvious: Yes, he's monitoring the situation with the Giants. Very closely."

The Saints would reportedly want a second-round pick in exchange for Payton.

Big offseason looms for Jets

Three things to expect from the Jets now that 2015 is in the books.

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Expect Ryan Fitzpatrick to be under center when the Jets play their first regular-season game this coming September. GETTY IMAGES

It is now five years without the playoffs for the New York Jets, a team that went from media darlings and the toast of the town on Sunday morning to being labeled as "Same Old Jets" just several hours later. A humiliating loss in a situation where they controlled their own playoff destiny will do that to you.

All is not lost for Jets fans, however, not by any stretch of the imagination. They did finish 10-6 (they were 4-12 a season ago) and they played meaningful football until the final week of the season (have to go back to 2010 to truly say that). So the building blocks are there for this team. They just need to put it all together.

All of which can make for an interesting offseason.

What to expect from the Jets this offseason:

1 Mo (and) Fitzmagic

Muhammad Wilkerson, the Pro Bowl defensive end and veteran journeyman quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick will both be a part of this team next year. The Jets can franchise Wilkerson but a broken leg in Sunday's loss at the Buffalo Bills might let the Jets retain him at a lower price. And Fitzpatrick will be back, although the Jets will likely need to offer him a multiyear deal to do so. And why shouldn't they? He had one of the best passing seasons in franchise history and his presence means that they can let last year's fourth-round pick Bryce Petty sit and develop for at least one more season.

2 Some tough decisions

Cornerback Antonio Cromartie, who had all of that guaranteed money in his three-year deal with the Jets this season, is likely gone. His production just does not meet the remainder of his contract and that money can be better utilized elsewhere. And there is the case of nose tackle Damon Harrison who had a fantastic season for the Jets. He is the ideal space eater in the center of the Jets line, not just consistent in his gap assignments but consistently pushing into the backfield. He will command top dollar in the open market and the Jets will need to decide if they keep "Snacks" or let a player like Wilkerson walk. Look for the Jets to let Harrison test the free agent market. Wilkerson is a star and a building block as well as being a local kid. Would be hard to let him go.

3 Chris Ivory will not be a Jet

Despite the first 1,000-yard rushing season of his career, Ivory still was disappointing for stretches of this season. He battled injuries for the second half of the year, something that is a concern as he'll be 28 years old this March and played a full season just once in his career. But after being one of the league's top rushers for chunks of this year, he's going to want more money. The Jets do have Bilal Powell on the roster, the first player re-signed by the team last offseason. And this upcoming draft has some good running back prospects, meaning that they might be able to upgrade at the position without overpaying. And since Ivory did have fumble concerns this season, it might be the right time to move on.

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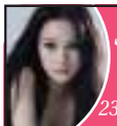

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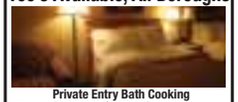

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1291552, for On Premise Liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Liquor, Wine & Beer at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 35-02 Ditmars Blvd., Astoria, NY 11105, for on premise consumption. Two Lizards, Inc. d/b/a Two Lizards Mexican Bar & Grill.

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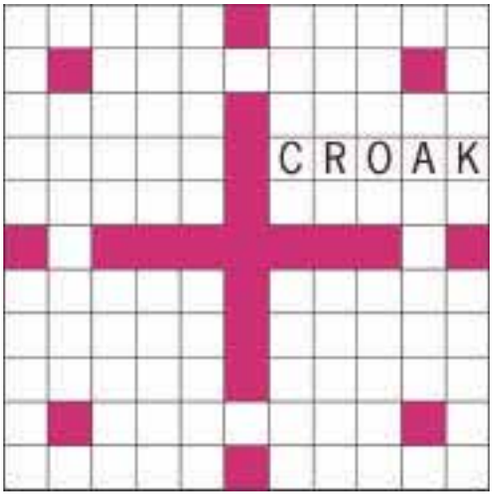
fill-ins

Place all the words listed into the grid. Each word can be used once only. The first word has been filled in.

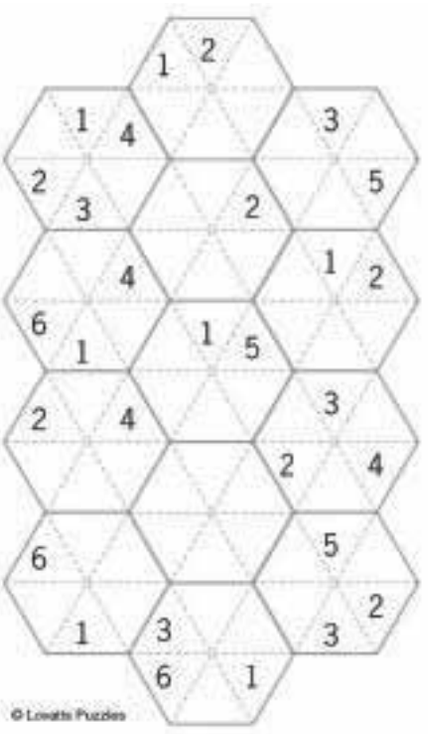


5 Letters
Adage
Alarm
Alien
Capes
Cards
Croak
Dread
Heard
Hitch
Hovel
Howls
Hymns
Intro
Looks
Maims
Motel
Motto
Mumps
Order
Ovary
Panda
Purer
Revue
Rinse
Smell
Snail
Steed
Stole
Swore
Tango
Venom
Weave

7 Letters
Ganders
Guarded
Nowhere
Outlive

hexoku

Fit the numbers 1 to 6 into each hexagon so that where the hexagons touch, the numbers are the same. No number is repeated in any hexagon.

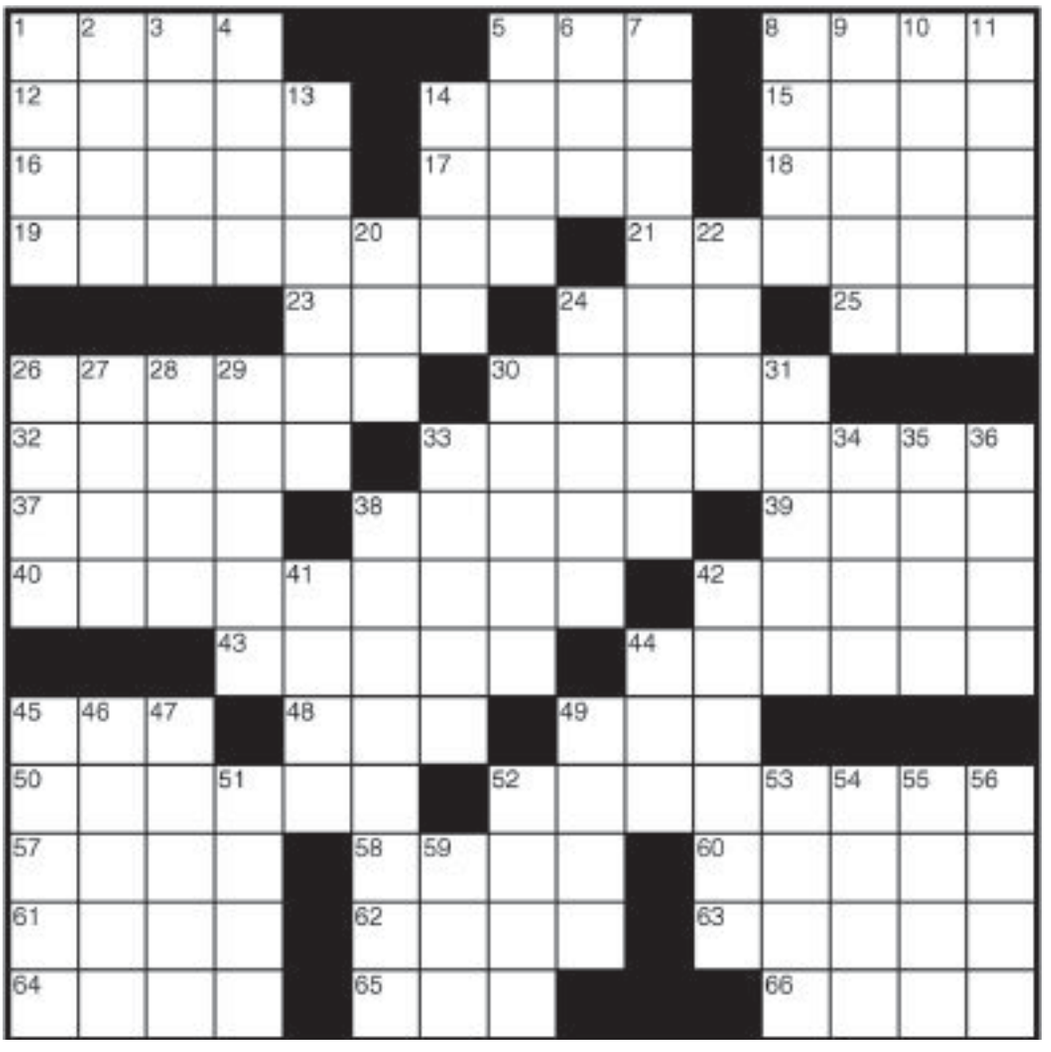


metro.us/crossword

Across
1 Miniature-golf shot
5 Flying mammal
8 Tool with jaws
12 Make oneself heard
14 Calf-length
15 In charge of
16 Ventricle neighbor
17 Trolley
18 Loughlin or Petty
19 Ten cubed
21 Surface
23 QB objectives
24 Draft order
25 Toady's reply
26 Sunglasses
30 Country's Patsy —
32 Metered cars
33 Stranger in the night? (2 wds.)
37 Old masters
38 Debonair
39 — and the Belmonts
40 Cliff
42 Stuck around
43 Art class wear
44 Prepares cutlets
45 Ms. Farrow
48 Puffin kin
49 "— Hot Ta Trot"
50 Like Don Juan
52 More grouchy
57 Whodunit suspect
58 — fixe
60 Diadem
61 By and by
62 Agrees silently
63 Degas or Cayce
64 — -majeste
65 Right, to Dobbin
66 Capsule, maybe

Down
1 Jr.'s exam
2 Oops! (hyph.)
3 Corrida sight
4 Ballet costume
5 Goose or loon
6 Tooth care gp.
7 History book item
8 Meadow rodent
9 Piano key
10 Suit material
11 Iroquoians
13 Tries a bite
14 Natural elevs.
20 Pitches
22 Knit, sometimes
24 Still in the game
26 Grind to a halt
27 Bad — day
28 Grease gun target
29 Deejay's platters
30 Rattle
31 Arsenio's buddy
33 GM car
34 Verdi opus
35 Having digits
36 Calls it quits
38 Erupting
41 "— — Old Cowhand"
42 Eyre's creator
44 Jungle crusher
45 Taj —
46 Castle that danced
47 Amigo's farewell
49 Very, to Yvette
51 Sea eagle
52 Yield, as territory
53 Notorious pirate
54 Othello's betrayer
55 Gaslight and Big Band
56 Uncommon
59 Forest grazer

FOR THE ANSWERS TO TODAY'S PUZZLES, **metro.us/games**



games

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Call in favors, set up meetings with people you have worked with in the past and present what you have to offer with confidence.

Taurus Make a contribution to a cause and speak up about your concerns. Helping something you believe in will raise your confidence.

Gemini If you aren't happy with what's happening in your life or the direction you are heading in, do something about it.

Cancer Share your thoughts and feelings with someone you want to spend more time with. You'll gain interest as well as worthwhile suggestions.

Leo Don't falter when it comes to making your New Year's resolutions a reality. Step up if you want to be one step closer to living your life your way.

Virgo You'll face problems at home if you cannot come to an agreement with someone you share responsibilities with. Express your feelings.

Libra Don't make assumptions or sign up to take on unrealistic responsibilities. You have to be realistic and have enough time for your personal needs.

Scorpio Listen to what others have to offer, but don't underestimate what you are worth. Negotiate fiercely and be prepared to walk away.

Sagittarius Too much of anything will lead to problems. Live within your means and don't overreact if someone doesn't do things your way.

Capricorn An investment will prove to be worthwhile. Professional changes will help you expand your interests and raise your standard of living.

Aquarius Emotional manipulation will lead to arguments. Concentrate on yourself and being the best you can be, not on what others are up to.

Pisces Refuse to let what others think cause you to second-guess your goals. Gravitate toward the people who want to collaborate. EUGENIA LAST

metro.us/sudoku

easy

7	8		1			5		6
2			5	3	9			
							2	
5	2	1						
	6	8				4	5	
						6	1	8
	1							
			9	8	6			3
6		9			7		4	5

hard

7	2		5		9			6
					4			2
4	3			1			5	
2		8		5	1			
			8	9		6		3
	8			4			3	1
5			9					
3			1		5		6	9

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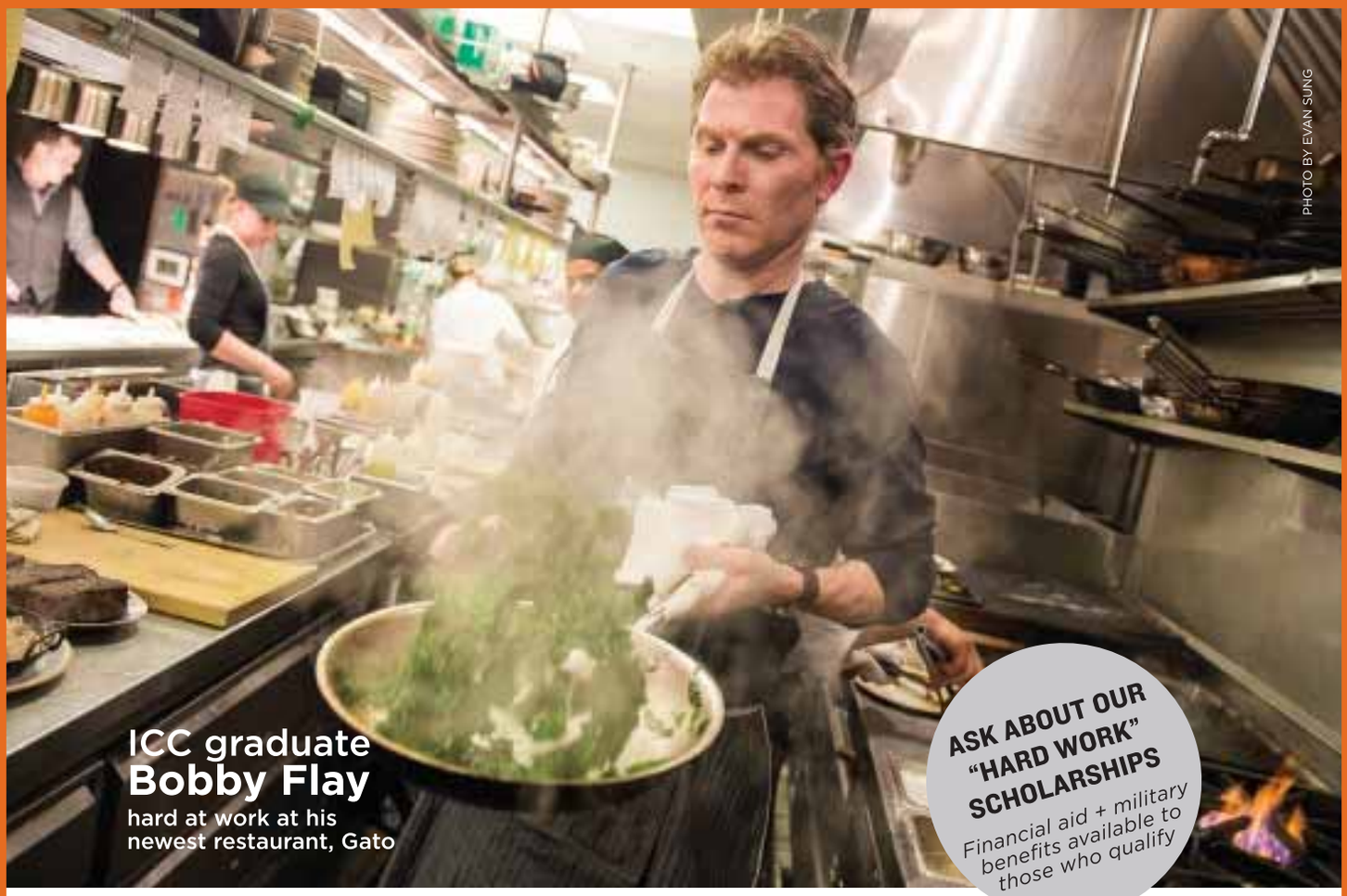

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